REMARKS

Applicants are amending independent claims 10, 18, and 20-22. Thus, claims 10-22 currently are pending and are subject to examination in the above-captioned patent application. No new matter is added by the foregoing amendments, and these amendments are fully supported by the specification. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the above-captioned patent application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

The Examiner rejected claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,328,570 to Ng. The Examiner also rejected claims 11-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as allegedly being rendered obvious by Ng. To the extent that these rejections remain applicable in view of the foregoing amendments, Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections, as follows.

35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

The Examiner rejected claim 10 as being anticipated by Ng. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, as follows.

Applicants have amended independent claim 10 in order to describe "a method for executing a program stored on a memory cartridge, comprising: providing a single memory cartridge storing each of at least one karaoke program and at least one game program; determining whether the memory cartridge is attached to a main body of a karaoke apparatus; [and] determining whether the memory cartridge is attached to a main body of a gaming apparatus that is separate from the karaoke apparatus."

In contrast, Ng describes karaoke unit 100 that comprises a removable storage interface 130 that allows a cartridge 135 to be inserted into karaoke unit 100. See, e.g., Ng, Column 3, Lines 35-37. Cartridge 135 may store song data, lyrics, timing information, graphic image data, and game programs. See, e.g., Id. at Lines 40-42. However, because karaoke unit 100 only includes a **single** storage interface, karaoke unit 100 does not determine whether the memory cartridge is attached to the main body of a karaoke apparatus and whether the memory cartridge is attached to the main body of a gaming apparatus, as set forth in Applicants' independent claim 10. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the anticipation rejection of claim 10 at least for this reason.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 11-22 as allegedly being rendered obvious by Ng. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, as follows.

a. Independent Claim 20

Applicants have amended independent claim 20 to describe "a system for executing a program stored on a memory cartridge, the memory cartridge storing at least one karaoke program and at least one game program, comprising: means for determining whether the memory cartridge is attached to a main body of a karaoke apparatus [and] means for determining whether the memory cartridge is attached to a main body of a gaming apparatus that is separate from the karaoke apparatus."

In contrast, Ng describes karaoke unit 100 that comprises a removable storage interface 130 that allows a cartridge 135 to be inserted into karaoke unit 100. See, e.g., Ng, Column 3, Lines 35-37. Cartridge 135 may store song data, lyrics, timing information, graphic image data, and game programs. See, e.g., Id. at Lines 40-42. However, because karaoke unit 100 only includes a **single** storage interface, karaoke unit 100 does not determine whether the memory cartridge is attached to the main body of a karaoke apparatus and whether the memory cartridge is attached to the main body of a gaming apparatus, as set forth in Applicants' independent claim 10. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the obviousness rejection of claim 20 at least for this reason.

b. Independent Claims 18, 19, 21, and 22

Applicants have amended independent claim 18 to describe "a method for operating a karaoke apparatus, comprising [the steps of]: . . . if and only if a memory cartridge is not attached to the main body of the karaoke apparatus, selecting a warning message program stored in the main body of the karaoke apparatus." Applicants have amended independent claims 19, 21, and 22 to include similar limitations.

The Examiner asserts that Ng discloses selecting a warning signal message program when the memory cartridge is not attached to the main body of the karaoke apparatus or when the memory cartridge is not attached to the main body of the gaming apparatus. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's assertions.

For example, Ng states:

> In step 620, the processor determines whether the download operation is legal or not. A download operation is not legal if, for example, cartridge 135 is not a compatible cartridge, identification information stored on cartridge 135 is invalid, or cartridge 135 is write protected or is a read-only type memory storage medium. If it is not legal, then in step 630, karaoke unit 100 displays information about the illegal operation and the routine ends.

Thus, in Ng, the only time a karaoke unit 100 displays "illegal information" is when cartridge 135 is inserted inside karaoke unit 100. In contrast, in Applicants' claimed invention as set forth in independent claims 18, 19, 21, and 22, the claimed "warning signal" is selected when the cartridge is not attached to the main body of the karaoke apparatus and/or the main body of the gaming apparatus. However, solely to expedite the prosecution of the above-captioned patent application, Applicants have amended independent claims 18, 19, 21, and 22 merely to clarify that the warning signal is displayed if and only if the cartridge is not attached. As such, Applicants' claimed "warning signal" and the "illegal information" described in Ng cannot be equivalents because the "illegal information" described in Ng is only displayed when the cartridge is attached to the karaoke unit and the "illegal information" is not displayed when the cartridge is removed or not attached to the karaoke unit. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the obviousness rejection of claims 18, 19, 21, and 22 at least for this reason.

c. Dependent Claims 11-17

Because claims 11-17 depend from allowable independent claim 10, Applicants submit that these claims are allowable at least for this reason.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that the above-captioned patent application is in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that an in-person or telephonic interview with Applicants' representatives would expedite the prosecution of the above-captioned patent application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney of records. Applicants believe that no fees are due as a result of this response to the outstanding Office Action in the above-captioned patent application. Nevertheless, in the event of any variance between the fees determined by Applicants and those determined by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, please charge any such variance to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 01-2300.

Respectfully submitted,

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